

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action transmitted January 19, 2007 (the "Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 10-19 were pending in the Application. The Office Action rejects these claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Telephone Conference

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's willingness to conduct a telephone conference concerning this Application on May 8, 2007. In the telephone conference, the Examiner and Applicant's representative (Chad C. Walters, Reg. No. 48,022) discussed the claim amendments to this claims herein and their patentability over British reference No. 19,963 issued to Johnston.

Section 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 10 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by British reference No. 19,963 issued to Johnston ("*Johnston*"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites "an enhanced bearing surface area which includes a substantially flat portion at the pulling face section disposed substantially in a vertical direction and which is substantially arcuate in a horizontal direction" and "wherein a horizontal line tangential to an intermediate area of the enhanced bearing surface area substantially flat portion substantially arcuate in the horizontal direction is perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the coupler knuckle casting." Claims 13 and 15 recite similar elements. *Johnston* does not disclose these elements. As the Examiner and Applicants previously discussed, any horizontal line tangential to an intermediate area of what the Office Action contends is an enhanced bearing surface area of *Johnston* is not perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the pivotal coupling hook of *Johnston*. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 13 and 15 are patentable over the cited art used in the rejections and request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 10, 12 and 17 each depends from Claim 1; Claim 14 depends from Claim 13; and Claim 16 depends from Claim 15. Claims 1, 13 and 15 are shown above to be allowable. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1, 13 and 15, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 10, 12, 14 and 16-17 be withdrawn.

Section 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnston. The Office Action rejects Claims 2-6 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnston in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,227 issued to Openchowski ("*Openchowski*"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 2-6, 11 and 18-19 each depends from Claim 1. Claim 1 is shown above to be allowable. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 2-6, 11 and 18-19 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Chad C. Walters, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6511.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required \$120.00 fee in payment of the attached Request for Extension of Time for one month and any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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